

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02
L-01 H-01 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 INRE-00 /041 W
-----202006 119783 /53
O 201924Z FEB 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6678

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1802

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, VE
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ REQUESTS USG CLARIFICATION OF CIA
CHARGES

1. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ (WHO IS VISITING INTERIOR THIS WEEKEND), FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE AT 1:30 P.M. TODAY (FEBRUARY 20). HE BROUGHT UP THE PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT PEREZ HAD RECEIVED CIA PAYMENTS. HE SAID THE PRESIDENT WAS MOST UPSET AND DISTURBED BY THESE CHARGES, WHICH HE CONSIDERS SERIOUS AND GRAVE, AND WHICH PRESENT A VERY DELICATE SITUATION IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS.

2. THE PRESIDENT, THE MINISTER SAID, HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OR THE USG ISSUE SOME KIND OF A CLARIFYING STATEMENT, DENYING THAT PEREZ WAS A CIA AGENT OR SOME SIMILAR KIND OF STATEMENT EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN PEREZ TO NIP THE CHARGE IN THE BUD. THE PRESIDENT REQUESTED THAT SUCH A CLARIFYING STATEMENT BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED THE MINISTER TO REPORT ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME
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IMMEDIATELY, AND TO KEEP HIM ADVISED.

3. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT I WOULD PASS THIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY. I SAID THAT I HAD NO OTHER BACKGROUND TO THE PRESS STORIES, BUT I WAS SURE THAT THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT BEING MADE TO SMEAR PRESIDENT PEREZ PERSONALLY AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED

IN LOCAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS (CARACAS 1800). THE
MINISTER REITERATED HIS REQUEST THAT I COMMUNICATE
WITH WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY, AND SAID HE WOULD BE
AVAILABLE TO ME AT ANY TIME DAY OR NIGHT.

4. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESIDENT, CORRUPTION, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CARACA01802
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770223/aaaaauol.tel
Line Count: 69
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4951f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, VE
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